

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A prosthesis for a human patient comprising allograft or xenograft tissue having a polypeptide growth factor associated therewith by a biologic adhesive, antibody-antigen associations, specific binding protein-receptor associations or enzyme substrate associations, said polypeptide growth factor being effective to stimulate the affiliation of viable cells with said tissue.

Claim 2 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said binding of said polypeptide growth factor to said tissue involves specific binding interactions.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said binding of said polypeptide growth factor to said tissue involves a linker molecule.

Claim 5 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said tissue comprises crosslinked tissue.

Claim 6 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said tissue comprises uncrosslinked tissue.

Claim 7 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said tissue comprises a porcine heart valve.

Claim 8 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said tissue comprises bovine pericardial tissue.

Claim 9 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide growth factor comprises vascular endothelial growth factor.

Claim 10 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 9 wherein said vascular endothelial growth factor comprises a protein selected from the group consisting of bVEGF164, bVEGF120, hVEGF165, hVEGF121, VEGF II, hVEGF80, VEGF-B, VEGF2, modified active forms thereof, and combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said tissue comprises synthetic tissue.

Claims 12-13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A prosthetic heart valve comprising a substrate with associated VEGF, wherein said VEGF is associated with the substrate by direct attachment, a biologic adhesive, covalent bonding using crosslinking agents, antibody-

antigen associations, specific binding protein-receptor associations or enzyme-substrate associations, the prosthesis having a valve structure, said polypeptide growth factors being effective to stimulate the affiliation of viable cells with said substrate.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The prosthetic heart valve of claim 14 wherein said prosthetic heart valve comprises a porcine heart valve.

Claims 16-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The prosthetic heart valve of claim 14 wherein the substrate comprises tissue.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The prosthetic heart valve of claim 21 wherein said tissue comprises uncrosslinked tissue.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The prosthetic heart valve of claim 21 wherein said tissue comprises crosslinked tissue.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The prosthetic heart valve of claim 14 wherein the substrate comprises a synthetic polymer.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising crosslinked natural tissue having an exogenous polypeptide growth factor associated therewith.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 25 wherein said polypeptide growth factor comprises vascular endothelial growth factor.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 25 wherein said crosslinked tissue comprises a crosslinked heart valve.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 25 wherein said crosslinking involves glutaraldehyde moieties.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) A prosthesis for a human patient comprising allograft or xenograft tissue having a polypeptide growth factor associated therewith by a biologic adhesive, covalent bonding using crosslinking agents comprising reactive functional groups, antibody-antigen associations, specific binding protein-receptor associations or enzyme substrate associations, said polypeptide growth factors being effective to stimulate the affiliation of viable cells with said tissue.